

Challenges and Innovations for Inclusive Assessments for Blind Students in STEM

In a recent collaboration, the Educational Testing Service and the Carnegie Foundation announced this new refocus on skills development in assessment – a priority that will redefine how STEM assessments are designed and conducted in the United States. This zeitgeist and its new innovative access technologies will make more inclusive STEM assessments possible. What then is inclusive assessment design? The answer varies depending upon the respondent to this deep question. This presentation will describe where we are today with assessments, how new innovative technologies are shifting the needle towards assessments for skill development and away from time-based approaches, and discuss some innovations on the horizon. Inclusive assessment design works in conjunction with inclusive curricula. As textbook publishers and science education technology firms become more inclusively minded, so too will the STEM subject fields. As STEM industry standards shift towards inclusion, so too must the education profession. Inclusion can and will be the future of STEM education.